

## Residents can share concerns at town hall

**Colleen Sparks**

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Ahwatukee, west Chandler and south Tempe residents can find out Thursday what their state elected officials have planned for this legislative session.

House majority whip John McComish, R-Ahwatukee; House speaker pro tem Bob Robson, R-Chandler; and Senate majority whip John Huppenthal, R-Chandler, will host a town hall meeting from 5:30-7 p.m. at Club West Golf Club, 16400 S. 14th Ave. in Ahwatukee.

The three leaders will answer questions, talk about their legislative priorities and listen to comments.

"We're so busy down here and it's just good to get refreshed and back amongst the people," McComish said. "It's really a good time for us to hear from the community on what's on their mind."

He said he expects topics of conversation to include the proposed South Mountain Freeway, state budget issues and the school districts' merger proposal voters will consider in November.

Robson has introduced a bill that would make it a Class 3 felony for adults to misrepresent their age as a way to deceive minors to commit sexual acts.

Huppenthal said balancing the budget and education are on his mind.

"The overriding thing is the budget - protecting money for education, making sure that we balance it without a tax increase," he said.

Huppenthal said he will push legislation to allow Kyrene School District and similar K-8 districts to add a ninth grade, which he believes would help ninth-graders academically.

He also said he will sponsor bills this session that

will require DNA evidence in rape, murder and assault cases.

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